FBI Blocked Test of Os[illegible] Brainwash Theory, Papers Say

WASHINGTON (UPI) — CIA officials wanted to dig up Lee Harvey Oswald's corpse to examine a scar on his left wrist — and test theories that his 1959 suicide attempt in Russia was a cover up for Soviet efforts to brainwash the Kennedy assassin.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover blocked the 1964 CIA suggestion, and the Warren Commission decided not "to force the FBI's hand on this point," according to documents obtained by a private researcher and made available to UPI.

The CIA considered Oswald's alleged suicide attempt four years before he killed John F. Kennedy "one of the crucial points in Oswald's experiences in the Soviet Union," said an internal Warren Commission memo written in early 1964.

Oswald supposedly "deeply slashed" his wrist while touring Russia on Oct. 21, 1959, on learning that his request for Soviet citizenship was denied.

He recounted the episode in his diary, obtained after the assassination by U.S. agents. The Soviets later reported he was treated from Oct. 21-28, 1959, at the Botkinskaya Hospital in Moscow for a self-inflicted wound on the left wrist.

The CIA felt "if the suicide incident is a fabrication, the time supposedly spent by Oswald in recovering ... in a Moscow hospital could have been spent by him in Russian Secret Police custody being coached, brainwashed, etc., for his appearance at the American embassy," the memo said.

Three days after Oswald's hospital release, he appeared at the embassy and tried to renounce his U.S. citizenship. He eventually was allowed to stay in Russia until he decided to return to the United States in 1962.